

Appl. No. 10/023,365  
Amdt. dated May 19, 2004  
Reply to Office action of November 21, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 11557.02  
Express Mail No. EV 423 773 392 US

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph (the Abstract) beginning at page 35, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A method to electrolytically polymerize aromatic hydrocarbons and oxidize cyclopentane structures within the hydrocarbons into cyclopentanone structures is disclosed including a method to electrolyse fluorine in the presence of an ester to produce poly(9-fluorenone). A method to electrolytically oxidize polymers having cyclopentane structures to polymers having [cycloppentanone] cyclopentanone structures is also disclosed including a method to electrolyze poly(fluorine) to produce poly(9-fluorenone). These methods may include performing two separate and independent electrolysis steps to prepare higher yield cyclopentanone structures. In addition, a method to chemically oxidize polymers containing cyclopentane structures into polymers containing cyclopentanone structures is disclosed, including a method to oxidize poly(fluorene), with a chemically prepared oxidizing agent, to produce poly(9-fluorenone).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/939,141, filed Aug. 24, 2001 pending and entitled METHOD FOR PREPARING POLYMERS CONTAINING CYCLOPENTANONE STRUCTURES.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Depending on the process used, the poly(fluorine) may include a number of impurities. Use of such “non-pure” polymers of fluorene is typical and expected and within the scope the invention. It should be noted that this may result in correspondingly “non-pure” end products of poly(9-fluorenone) – *i.e.* the percent (W/W) of 9-Fluorenone units will be decreased relative to other polymer units. Poly(fluorene) having at least one fluorene unit can be used and/or poly(fluorene) having at least 1% W/W fluorene units can be used, but preferably a polymer having at least 10% W/W fluorene units, more preferably a polymer having at least 50% W/W

Appl. No. 10/023,365

Amdt. dated May 19, 2004

Reply to Office action of November 21, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 11557.02

Express Mail No. EV 423 773 392 US

fouorene units, and most preferably at least 80% W/W fluorene units can be used as the starting material in the methods of the present invention. The poly(9-fluorenone) produced by this method has at least one fluorenone unit and/or has at least 1% W/W 9-fluorenone units and preferably has at least 10% W/W 9-fluorenone units and more preferably at least 50% W/W 9-fluorenone units and most preferably at least 80% 9-fluorenone units.